

REMARKS/ARGUMENTS

Claims 30-39 were previously pending in the application. Claims 30 and 38-39 are amended to correct inadvertent typographical errors that resulted in grammatical (claim 30) and spelling (claims 38-39) mistakes; and new claims 40-43 are added herein. Support for new claim 40 is found on column 4, lines 6-21, and column 4, lines 36-67, of issued parent patent 6,144,652, while support for new claims 41-43 is found on column 6, lines 57, to column 7, line 6. Assuming the entry of this amendment, claims 30-43 are now pending in the application. The Applicant hereby requests further examination and reconsideration of the application in view of the foregoing amendments and these remarks.

In paragraph 2 of the office action, the Examiner rejected claim 30 under 35 U.S.C. 102(b) as being anticipated by Uddenfeldt. In paragraph 3, the Examiner objected to claims 31-36 as being dependent upon a rejected base claim, but indicated that those claims would be allowable if rewritten in independent form. In paragraph 4, the Examiner allowed claims 37-39. For the following reasons, the Applicant submits that all of the now-pending claims are allowable over Uddenfeldt.

According to claim 30, at least two temporal communication slots are allocated to the first terminal to support the first communications link when interference caused by and interference experienced by the first communications link are acceptably low. Uddenfeldt does not teach such a combination of features.

In particular, Uddenfeldt teaches only that temporal communication slots are allocated to a terminal to support a communications link based on interference experienced by that communications link. Uddenfeldt does not teach or even suggest using interference caused by a communications link in determining whether to allocate temporal communication slots to that communications link.

Each and every one of the teachings in Uddenfeldt that is related to interference (e.g., as indicated by bit error rate) is limited to discussing the interference experienced by the communications link. See Abstract, lines 7-11; Fig. 4, blocks 43-47; column 1, lines 29-30; column 1, lines 34-39; column 3, lines 1-5; column 3, lines 24-31; column 5, line 61, to column 6, line 9; column 6, lines 13-18; column 6, lines 21-26; column 6, lines 36-39; column 7, lines 18-22; column 7, lines 28-32; column 7, line 54, to column 8, line 10; column 8, lines 17-24; and column 8, line 62, to column 9, line 8. There is absolutely no teaching in Uddenfeldt related to the interference caused by the communications link.


Moreover, according to Uddenfeldt, the half rate mode (i.e., one time slot per frame) is assigned when interference experienced by the communications link is relatively low (as indicated by the bit error rate being below a predetermined value), while the full rate mode (i.e., two time slots per frame) is assigned when interference experienced by the communications link is relatively high (as indicated by the bit error rate being above a predetermined value). See, e.g., column 3, lines 27-31; column 6, lines 10-26; column 7, line 54, to column 8, line 10. Thus, Uddenfeldt teaches assigning more temporal communication slots when interference is greater, while claim 30 recites assigning temporal communication slots only when interference is acceptably low.

For all these reasons, the Applicant submits that claim 30 is allowable over Uddenfeldt. Since claims 31-36 and 40-43 depend variously from claim 30, it is further submitted that those claims are also allowable over Uddenfeldt. The Applicant submits therefore that the rejection under Section 102(b) has been overcome.

In view of the above amendments and remarks, the Applicant believes that the now-pending claims are in condition for allowance. Therefore, the Applicant believes that the entire application is now in condition for allowance, and early and favorable action is respectfully solicited.

Respectfully submitted,

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